

DISCOVERY

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Vol. 27, No. 9 - Friday, May 9, 2003 -- Brooks City-Base, Texas

Through the Many Facets of Aerospace Medicine

Waiver ensures per diem beyond 180 days

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — Secretary of the Air Force Dr. James G. Roche recently granted a blanket waiver authorizing payment of per diem to servicemembers if they remain on temporary duty beyond 180 days.

Normally, an individual waiver must be requested and approved as outlined in the Joint Federal Travel Regulation, said Lt. Col. William J. Buechel, chief of Air Force assignments policy at the Pentagon.

Without an individual waiver, payment of an airman's per diem stops on the 181st day of a deployment, Buechel said.

The blanket waiver does not apply to Guard and Reserve people on active duty because many of them require separate approval to remain on active duty to serve a longer TDY.

By granting a blanket waiver, Roche kept the Air Force from having to process thousands of individual waivers and ensured airmen would continue to be paid per diem for TDY in excess of 180 days, Buechel said.

"(The secretary's waiver) goes into effect immediately and applies to all airmen deployed in support of the global war on terrorism and Operation Iraqi Freedom," Buechel said.

The waiver will remain in effect until the secretary determines that it is once again appropriate to process individual waivers, according to Buechel.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Anita Schroeder

Breaking new ground

Members of the Brooks community, including the Director of the newly formed Air Force Institute For Operational Health, Eric Stephens, center, and distinguished guests cut the official ribbon during a May 2 ceremony at Brooks. AFIOH is the

product of a merger between the former Air Force Institute of Environment, Safety and Occupational Health Risk Analysis, and what was the Development Center for Operational Medicine.

AFIERA, DCOM merger creates AFIOH

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

In a progressive move that further bolsters the Air Force's capability to effectively respond to global health challenges affecting America's warfighters and civilian communities, the Air Force Institute For Operational Health was officially established during a May 2 re-designation ceremony here that merged two Brooks-based organizations.

The 311th Human Systems Wing's AFIOH was formed through the merger of the Air Force Institute for Environment, Safety and Occupational Health Risk Analysis with the Development Center for Operational Medicine, formerly known as DCOM.

"The merger of the premiere public health institution on the planet with an innovative organization that serves as an Air Force 'think tank' for improving medical capabilities has created a new organization that truly embraces the whole of operational medicine," said Brig. Gen. Lloyd Dodd, Command Surgeon for NORAD and U.S. Northern Command.

Describing the merger as an historic new chapter in Air Force operational health, ceremony keynote speaker retired Lt. Gen. P. K. Carlton,

"The merger of the premiere public health institution on the planet with an innovative organization that serves as an Air Force 'think tank' for improving medical capabilities has created a new organization that truly embraces the whole of operational medicine."

Brig. Gen. Lloyd Dodd

Command surgeon,
NORAD and U.S. Northern Command

former Air Force Surgeon General, praised the contributions of the Brooks and San Antonio medical communities that supported Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"What you, the medical community, have done in this war has been described by the Air Force Chief of Staff

as being the best response in the history of warfare," Carlton said. After conveying a litany of operational medicine accomplishments, including aeromedical evacuation successes and a disease battle rate that was 20 percent lower than that of Operation Desert Storm, Carlton exclaimed, "You have done your job superbly."

Carlton said the merger has now expanded Air Force operational health to include support of what he characterized as America's 'new warfighters,' emergency first responders such as firefighters and police who have become part of the war on terrorism since the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

"We're excited about it (merger) and look forward to the future where we will focus more on operational health, global health and worldwide deployments," said Eric Stephens, former AFIERA director who now heads AFIOH. Describing AFIOH as the Air Force version of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Stephens said the combined assets of the new organization will be dedicated to enhancing public health, improving disease surveillance and detection and ensuring that America's warfighter are fit and healthy to perform their missions.

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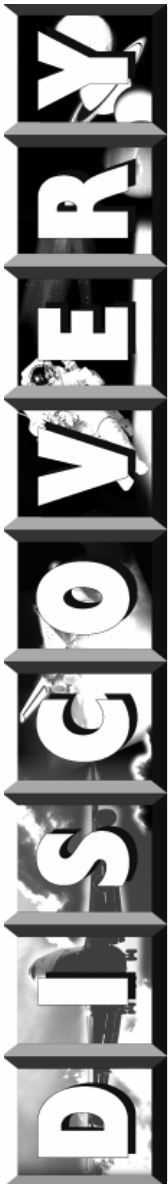
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WNBA visits Brooks
to promote
Silver Stars

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A message from the top:

Partnership principles help AFMC deliver warfighter support

Brooks personnel,

Your attention is invited to the accompanying joint release from Gen. Lester Lyles, Commander of the Air Force Materiel Command, and Bobby Harnage, President of the American Federation of Government Employees, concerning the Partnership Council experience between AFMC and AFGE Council 214.

We wholeheartedly endorse this article and want you to know that Brooks City-Base has

a similar success story. We plan to share both the command and local experiences with you in upcoming briefings scheduled for May 12 and 13. We look forward to seeing you at one of those briefings.

W. D. Whiting, SES, DAF,
President, Local 1757,

American Federation of Government Employees
and Dr. Brendan Godfrey
311th Human Systems Wing Deputy Director

By General Lester Lyles,

Commander, Air Force Materiel Command

and

Bobby Harnage,

President, American Federation of Government Employees, AFL-CIO

Every successful organization has key ingredients — strong leadership, dedicated workers, a clear roadmap of where it wants to go and focused goals. But there is another ingredient that strengthens an organization — strong partnerships.

Air Force Materiel Command and the American Federation of Government Employees, AFL-CIO have forged a strong, dynamic partnership built on an important vision — labor and management working together to create and sustain an environment that takes care of our people so they can take care of the mission. And our partnership is helping us make a difference as we provide support to our American warfighters and our allies.

But there was a time when our union and AFMC management did not have a strong partnership and we often engaged in heated debate about how best to serve the command workforce.

But today, our relationship is built on five partnership principles:

- We value and respect all workers
- We focus on our common interests and shared problems
- We share information freely
- We treat each other as equals
- And we work to sustain the partnership process

We follow these principles with respect and appreciation for each other's roles and responsibilities. It's not a perfect partnership, few partnerships are. But we are committed to maintaining a climate in which management and the union work together. Whether it's on the shop floor or around the conference room table, we must work together as partners. Following these principles is the right thing to do.

We've come a long way since we formed our command partnership council three years ago. Our councils, both at the headquarters and our centers, are making great strides as we operationalize partnership principles at all levels throughout AFMC.

We are working as a team and there is no better example of our success than the Alternative Dispute Resolution program we're rolling out right now. It's a way to resolve disputes-not as adversaries-but as partners. It's quicker and less expensive than the traditional complaint process, so it puts less strain on our ability to accomplish the mission. In the briefing your about to receive, you'll hear more about our partnership principles and how we will use them to help us deliver even greater world-class capabilities to our warfighters

We call on everyone in AFMC, military and civilian, union and non-bargaining, to work as a team and embrace our partnership principles. It will make a difference in your quality of life and in AFMC's success meeting our national security objectives.

Together we can make it happen.

The **Discovery** is online.

Go to <http://www.brooks.af.mil/HSW/PA/discovery>.



Eagle Eyes involves everyone

By Kimberly Turner
ASC Public Affairs

The Air Force Office of Special Investigations officials are encouraging all members of the local community to assist in preventing terrorism by participating in the Eagle Eyes program.

The OSI reports since its conception in April 2002, more than 1,200 tips of suspicious activities have been called into the AFOSI detachments worldwide.

“No matter how vigilant law enforcement officials are, they cannot be everywhere at one time,” said Special Agent Sara Fisher. “That’s where community members can help. You know if something is not right in your own backyard.”

The Eagle Eyes program is an information and education campaign that teaches military members, community citizens, family members and merchants how to recognize the planning steps of terrorists and what to do if they see something suspicious. “It expands our radar screen to capture incidents we didn’t look at prior to Sept. 11,” said Fisher. “Community members and their families are an extension of the OSI’s eyes and ears and can be a sensor for the protection of the United States and its people.”

AFOSI agents need to know who is looking at Air Force bases and why, said Fisher.

“Activities to look for are people videotaping or photographing the installation or people loitering around the gates and other facilities watching base procedures. Surveillance includes the use of cameras, note taking, maps, drawings or diagrams, the use of binoculars or other vision-enhancing devices, or simple observation.”

Individuals should report immediate incidents of suspicious activities by providing detailed description of people, time of day, location, and any vehicles involved. Suspicious activities could include: surveillance of buildings, vehicles, or people; threats; inquires for sensitive information; or testing security safeguards

Once an incident is reported, security forces will respond and pass a report to local OSI agents. Agents conduct necessary follow-up actions such as talking to the person who reported the incident for additional information. OSI agents then report information to their central analytical center at Andrews Air Force Base, Md., to compare the data to other Department of Defense agencies.

Following are examples of possible terrorist surveillance activities and need to be reported immediately:

- Multiple sightings of the same suspicious person, vehicle, or activity, separated by time, distance or direction.
- Individuals at bus or train stops for extended periods while buses or trains come and go.
- Individuals who carry on long conversations on pay or cellular phones.
- Individuals who order food at a restaurant and leave before the food arrives or who order without eating.
- Joggers who stand and stretch for an inordinate amount of time.
- Individuals sitting in a parked car for an extended period of time.

Brooks personnel can contact Special Agent Rodney Johns at 925-9678 to report anything questionable, or call 257-EYES (257-3937) or local law enforcement.

Merger

Continued from Page 1

“This merger will bring together the strengths of the two organizations and create a broader charter while building in flexibility and agility,” Stephens said. He explained, “AFIERA strengths are its deployable nuclear, biological and chemical capability; its diverse manpower comprised of scientists, engineers and medical doctors; its in-house clinical and environmental analytical laboratories; and its ability to turn data into knowledge through health and environmental surveillance data repositories. DCOM strengths are its Air Force Surgeon General think-tank mission, its hand-picked members and its unique ability to leverage military-civilian partnerships.”

Since its inception in 2001, DCOM has fostered collaborations and partnerships with numerous federal, state and municipal agencies aimed at improving medical response capabilities during mass casualty exercises. The organization has also helped develop innovative medical technologies, concepts and plans designed to safeguard public health while enhancing homeland security initiatives.

AFIERA’s roots date to 1955 when its predecessor was established as the Occupational and Environmental Health Lab. Its evolution as an operational health organization was hastened by the subsequent addition of the Drug Testing Lab, Epidemiology Lab and the Epidemiology Services and Acquisition Pollution Prevention missions.

Stephens said, “AFIOH will have the responsibility to promote global health and protect Air Force warriors and Air Force communities with a focus on the Air and Space Expeditionary Force. We will do this through global surveillance, detection, protection and prevention both in deployed and at home settings.”

AFIOH’s expanded operational health outreach has become even more important to civilian and military communities worldwide during an era in which terrorists and rogue states threaten global health and security with the potential use of weapons of mass destruction.

“Our motto is ‘Sustaining Readiness Through Healthy Communities.’ Today’s communities are not defined by fences, but instead by geographic regions made up of military installations and civilian communities,” Stephens said, adding, “ Many Air Force members live in those civilian communities and are protected by local firemen, police and medical providers. The key is to ensure all of these support organizations are talking and planning together before a disaster occurs.”

Stephens said AFIOH’s support of disaster preparedness is linked to leveraging Air Force resources and knowledge through collaborations, including two key partners: Texas universities and U.S. Northern Command.



Saving pilots one volunteer at a time

By Rita Boland
Staff Writer

Before a pilot wears a G-force suit to protect them from the extra pull of gravity during jet maneuvers, volunteers at the Air Force Research Laboratory's centrifuge test the equipment to determine its ability and functions.

"Pretty much all the G-suits the pilots use come through here," said Staff Sgt. Amber Honeycutt, an aerospace physiologist who works at the centrifuge.

Though some training pilots and all NASA astronauts training for a shuttle mission, including the Columbia crew, ride the centrifuge, most of the work done at the Brooks centrifuge is equipment research. Subjects test suits developed at AFRL and from various other locations, including government contractors.

"(The volunteers) get to wear things that no one has seen," Honeycutt said.

The research aims to prevent pilots in flight from experiencing G-lock, a loss of consciousness due to G-forces, and losing control of the aircraft.

The work at the centrifuge produces valuable results. According to officials at AFRL, loss of life and equipment due to G-force problems has dropped dramatically in the last 10 years and such problems are almost non-existent today.

The equipment being tested works to keep blood flowing throughout the body. Unlike movie scenes imitating high forces of gravity where characters are pressed against their seats, blood and skin push downward, not backward during the ride. Some of the tested G-suits inflate around the legs causing the subject to flex against the pressure and thereby circulate blood back through the body. Problems occur when too much blood leaves the brain area.



Courtesy photo

The Air Force Research Laboratory's centrifuge has proven to be a valuable tool to the Air Force thanks to volunteer test subjects who help researchers study the effects of acceleration.

The tests generally last from 30 minutes to two hours. The subjects must learn to do a breath exchange. Some studies require subjects to experience G-lock while other studies require subjects to experience very high G-levels.

The volunteers, some of whom endure up to 9Gs, experience more force than most pilots. Between 7.5-8Gs is the high end for pilots and that force comes for short periods of time during special maneuvers. (Some roller coasters reach speeds of 4-5 for short instances.) Despite the physical demands, the volunteers thrive on the thrill and the chance to play a part in the aerospace mission of the Air Force.

"I like the people that work here," said 2nd Lt. Tara Heintz. "They make it fun. I like feeling like a pilot once a week."

The volunteers come from all the military bases in San Antonio, though the majority work at Brooks, and from every rank.

"It's a good mixture," Honeycutt said.

With supervisor approval subjects can ride a theoretically unlimited number of times per month. Though only

one test per month qualifies a volunteer for hazardous duty pay, coordinators at the centrifuge want subjects to ride at least three times every 30 days to maintain their stamina and resistance.

"Our subjects have to deal with a lot," said Sue Flores the centrifuge research subject coordinator. "They're high adrenaline junkies."

The centrifuge runs every day except training days for about six hours a day.

Anyone interested in volunteering or more information can contact Flores at 536-6258, or by email at: suzanne.flores@brooks.af.mil.

Subjects can ride the centrifuge once to determine their interest with no obligation. Volunteers must pass a flight physical and be between 18-50 years of age.

Centrifuge operators always welcome new volunteers and the newest physiologist on the team, Senior Airman Max Alvarado, plans to ride the centrifuge himself and hopes others will take advantage of the opportunity as well.

"It's an experience that will last forever," Alvarado said.

May officer promotions

The following Brooks commissioned personnel have been selected for promotion to the next highest rank. Congratulations.

To Colonel:

James Heriot

U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine

Robert Ireland

USAFSAM

To Lieutenant Colonel:

John Andrus

USAFSAM

Lawrence Burd

USAFSAM

Leonardo Profenna

USAFSAM

To Major:

Denise Bruce

311th Human Systems Wing

Anthony Tvaryanas

USAFSAM

To Captain:

Melody Santo

311th Human Systems

Program Office

To First Lieutenant:

James Aldrich

311th YA

Vanessa Bowman

311th YA

Timothy Boykin

311th YA

Paul Hauspurg

311th HSW

David Mandel

311th YA

Anthony Parrille

311th YA

Mark Rockefeller

311th YA

James Rourk

311th HSW

Antonio Silvera

311th Human Systems Wing

Plans and Programs

Eric Skaar

311th YA

Daniel Wheeler

USAFSAM



Air Force launches massive campaign to thank parents

WASHINGTON (AFMCNS) — Secretary of the Air Force James Roche and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John Jumper launched a service-wide campaign May 5 to thank the parents of America's airmen for their support of their children's service.

The Air Force Parent Pin program encourages airmen to register on a secure Air Force Web site, www.yourguardiansoffreedom.com, where they can provide the names and addresses of up to two parents or parental figures.

Shortly thereafter, the airmen's parents receive personalized letters from Roche and Jumper containing high-quality lapel pins displaying the letter "P" cradled in the Air Force symbol.

All airmen — active, Guard and Reserve — are strongly encouraged by their chain of command to register on the Web site and have pins sent to up to two recipients.

The pins are a contemporary adaptation of the World War II "E" flags that were used to recognize companies for contributions to the war effort, and they are presented on display cards that explain their lineage. The letters address recipients and airmen by name.

Air Force officials said they are intended to communicate to parents the importance of their children's service to the ongoing war on terrorism, to express sincere gratitude for parents' continued support, and to convey a sense of partnership between the Air Force and the parents of America's airmen.

This massive effort comes on the

heels of the Air Force's highly-successful "E" pin program, which represented the first direct-mail outreach effort from the leaders of any of the armed services to employers across America. Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve Command airmen voluntarily submitted contact information for more than 60,000 employers, each of whom received an "E" pin and a personalized letter from the Secretary of the Air Force and the Air Force Chief of Staff acknowledging them as partners in the war effort.

Air Force leaders have received hundreds of supportive letters and e-mails from employers and airmen because of this program, and today, tens of thousands of employers are wearing Air Force "E" pins as pledges of support for the military service of their airmen.

Both the Parent pin and "E" pin campaigns are elements of the Air Force's Your Guardians of Freedom program.

As families, employers and communities across the nation share the burdens of military service, service leaders said it's critical that commanders at every level reach out to cultivate the relationships that form the foundation of public support for their airmen.

Through a secure Web site at www.yourguardiansoffreedom.com, the Your Guardians of Freedom program offers a flexible, user-friendly set of Web-based tools that allow commanders and their staffs to quickly and efficiently reach out to key audiences on their bases, in their communities, and beyond.

Air Force preparing for next contingency

By Master Sgt. Scott Elliott

Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — Even as deployed airmen return home from Operation Iraqi Freedom, Air Force officials are focusing on what they need to do to reload the service for the next contingency.

According to Lt. Gen. Ronald E. Keys, deputy chief of staff for air and space operations, the three priorities in reconstituting the Air Force are people, units and the overall Air Force.

"In the people category, we need to give our people the time to reunite with their families, take care of personal things and decompress," the general said.

The service is also committed to helping airmen get their career progression requirements back on track, Keys said.

"We have to give them a chance to study for their promotion exams and get them into professional military education classes or other professional training," he said. "We'll make sure they don't lose those classes by virtue of having answered the call to go to war."

Unit reconstitution will consist of getting local training programs back on track, restocking supplies, and repairing and maintaining equipment.

At the Air Force level, Keys said senior leaders would have to face challenges ranging from personnel management to completely reloading the air and space expeditionary force rotation schedule.

"The AEF construct is a crisis-contingency mechanism for scheduling people to (deploy)," he said. "We froze AEFs 7/8 in place, added 9/10, then added parts of 1/2 and 3/4. There are a lot of people over there, and the AEF is not in sequence."

Keys said he expects the AEF cycle to back on track by early 2004. In the meantime, the Air Force will weave together interim AEF pairs to meet upcoming deployment requirements.

"We'll take the (people who did not deploy) from AEFs 5/6, 1/2 and 3/4, and pack

age them into a temporary AEF," Keys said. "As we get the force reconstituted, we'll come off the interim AEF and start the normal rotation with everyone back into an AEF window."

The AEF Center at Langley Air Force Base, Va., is a key component to the reconstitution effort, because they are the ones charged with keeping track of people, equipment and deployment requirements, the general said. "The AEF Center is absolutely critical because they know where all the people are and what the capability is," he said. "They have a tough job, and the world doesn't stand still. We still have requirements in the Pacific, the global war on terror and in the Balkans, so it's not as simple as just focusing on Iraq."

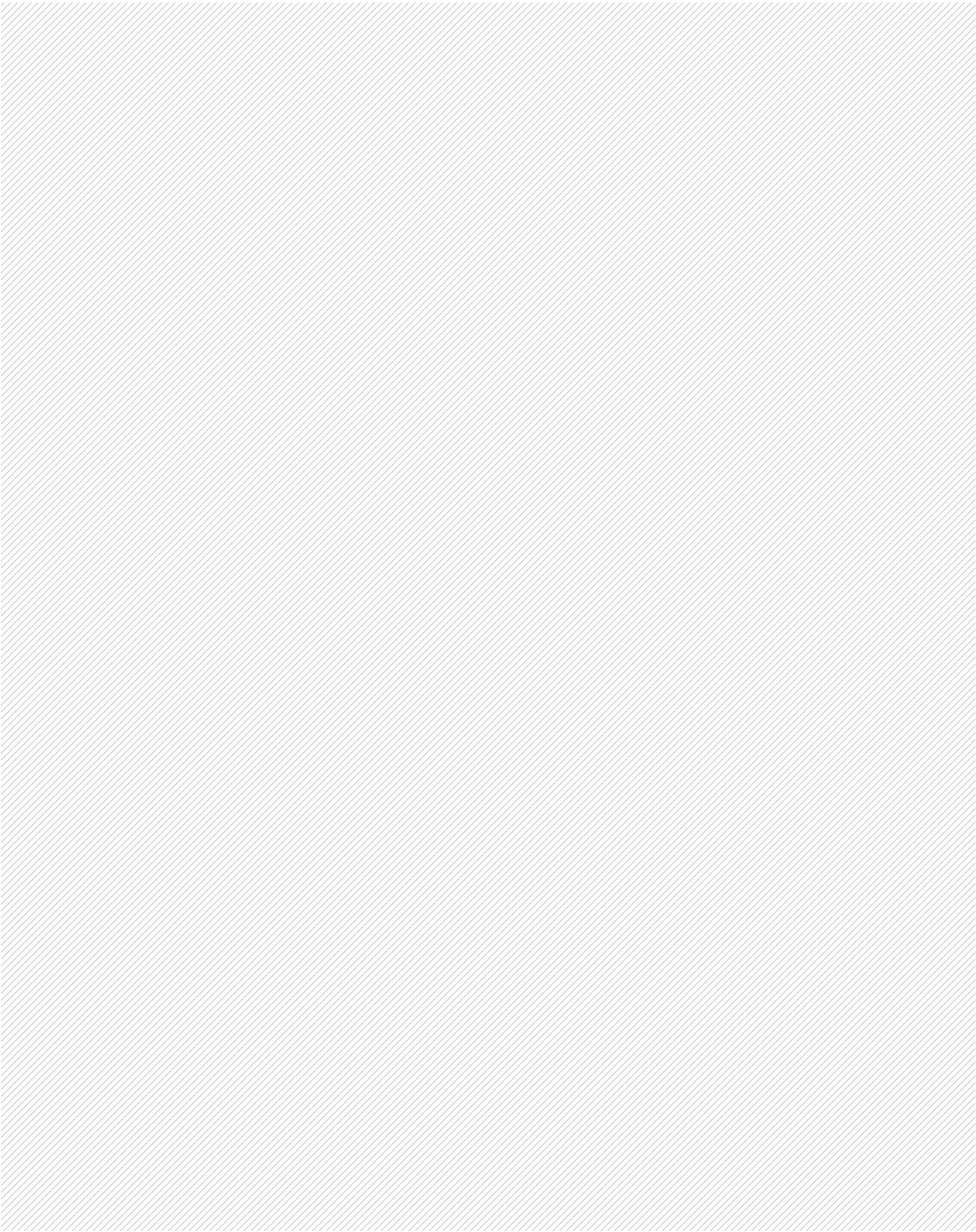
It is the service's commitment to meeting the challenges of those and other potential requirements that are driving the Air Force to reconstitute as quickly as possible, Keys said.

"The people of the United States expect us to be ready when called upon," he said. "The longer you wait to reconstitute, the more difficult it becomes. For every day we lose, down the line there's some training event that's been missed."

Keys said a highly coordinated "surge" operation would be required to work through the training backlog caused by instructors and equipment being deployed. Part of that coordination includes working with the various major commands to address their unique concerns and requirements.

"We have to go through this whole gamut — people, units and big Air Force," he said. "You can't do any of them in isolation because everything you do in one place causes a ripple effect. You have to coordinate; you have to have a policy across the force."

"The end game, where we're going, is to get back into the AEF battle rhythm," Keys said. "The AEF is the way we do business in the Air Force. That's the way we provide forces to the combatant commanders."





ACTION LINE

536-2222



The COMMANDER'S ACTION LINE is your opportunity to make Brooks a better place to live, work and play.

If you have a suggestion for improvement, a complaint or a problem that you have not been able to resolve through normal complaint channels or the chain of command, call the COMMANDER'S ACTION LINE, 536-2222.

Only items of general interest will be published, so please leave your name and number for a personal response.

The base agencies listed below can be contacted directly:

Col. Tom Travis
311th Human Systems
Wing commander

311th Security Forces Squadron.....	536-2851
SFS after duty hours.....	536-2851
311th Civil Engineer Squadron.....	536-3861
311th Communications Squadron.....	536-6571
311th Mission Support Group Logistics Division.....	536-3541
Safety.....	536-2111
Housing Maintenance.....	533-4100
Housing Office.....	536-1840
311th Services Division.....	536-2545
311th Medical Squadron (Clinic).....	536-4715
Military Personnel.....	536-1845
Civilian Personnel.....	536-3353
Military Pay.....	536-5778
Civilian Pay.....	536-8370
I.G. (FWA).....	536-2358
Military Equal Opportunity.....	536-2584
EEO Complaints.....	536-3702
BX Market.....	533-9079
Brooks Development Office.....	536-3372
Brooks City-Base Marketing and Development Office.....	536-5366



**Brooks
Family
Support Center
activities**
Call 536-2444
for information

Key spouse training

May 9, 10 - 11 a.m., Bldg. 537—

Become a key spouse and volunteer to assist unit commanders with family moral and support in time of need. Receive your free spouses handbook for success and lunch. Key spouses must be interviewed and appointed by unit leadership. Contact Tech. Sgt. Austin Peoples at 536-2444 for details.

Transition assistance

May 20-22, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., Bldg. 537—

Making the transition from the military to civilian sector can be a big undertaking. This seminar allows us to better serve separating and retiring members. Topics include job search preparation, resume writing, interviewing skills, veteran's benefits, and more. Members should attend at least 180

days prior to separation.

Bundles for babies

June 11, 8 a.m. - noon, Bldg. 537—

Active duty Air Force couples with a newborn or expecting a child should plan on attending this Air Force Aid Society sponsored class. Get information about budgeting, basic baby care, infant development, effective parenting, car seat regulations and more.

Smooth move

June 12, 12:30 - 3 p.m., Bldg. 537—

PCSing? Hear briefings from travel, legal, the clinic, finance, housing and the Family Support Center and ask your questions. The seminar is open to all active duty members, DoD civilians and spouses.

PCS overseas

June 12, 3 - 4 p.m., Bldg. 537—

Any move can be stressful, but an overseas move has its own set of challenges and opportunities. Learn more about your OCONUS PCS by attending the Smooth Move seminar and staying after for this class.

VA benefits assistant

Wed., 9-1 p.m., Bldg. 537—


Schedule an appointment to visit with a VA representative on site. Receive assistance filling out claims, screening medical records and one-on-one consultations. Bring three copies of medical records.

Consumer credit counseling

Thursdays, 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Bldg. 537—

You can get out of debt with a debt management plan. Call 536-2444 to schedule an appointment with a credit counselor.





Midweek mass

Midweek mass at the Brooks Chapel is held Thursdays at 11:30 a.m.

Mass is held each first Friday of the month and on holy days of obligation. Mass is open for the entire base Roman Catholic community. Call 536-3824 for details.

Lifebuilder's series

The Lifebuilder's Lunchtime Series continues Wednesdays at noon at the Chapel Annex. Contact the Chapel staff for more information.

Chapel schedule:

Weekdays:
11:30 a.m. — Mass or Eucharistic service

Wednesdays:
12 p.m. — Lifebuilders luncheon
6 p.m. — Catholic choir rehearsal

Thursdays:
7:30 p.m. Protestant choir rehearsal

Sundays:
9 a.m. — Catholic Mass
10:30 a.m. — Catholic religious education
9 a.m. — Protestant Sunday School, ages 3-adult
10:30 a.m. — Protestant Worship, includes children's church

Ecumenical worship and picnic

The Brooks Chapel has scheduled an Ecumenical Worship Service for May 18 at 10 a.m. at pavilion #2 behind Bldg. 150. The service includes singing, praying, hearing the Word and communion, though Catholics and Protestants will receive separate distributions. Both the Protestant and Catholic choir will sing. Chapel personnel hope to do together what various denominations can while respecting unresolved differences.

Guest dramatist Sam Carter Gilliam will give a special monologue on Mary, the mother of Jesus.

The event serves as a chapel parish farewell for Tech. Sgt. Linda Cuellar, who retires June 6, and Chaplain William Cannon, who will PCS in the early summer. Attendees can participate in games and a picnic after the service. The chapel asks all non-students to bring two side dishes — a salad, veggie or desert dish. Hamburgers, hot dogs and beverages are provided. All students are invited to come as guests of the chapel staff.

For more information, contact the Brooks Chapel at 536-6606.



By Jan McMahon
Brooks Services Marketing Office
536-5475

Family Child Care

Bldg. 1154, 536-2041

The Family Child Care Program has moved from Bldg. 510 to Bldg. 1154.

An important decision parents face today is where to find reliable, convenient and affordable quality childcare. The Brooks Family Child Care Program offers all of that to the Brooks community, including military, DoD civilians, NAF employees and contractors.

Family child care offers in-home care for up to six children, sometimes the provider's own children. The home you choose should meet your child's emotional and educational needs.

Before parents enroll their children in a family child care program, it is

important to arrange an interview with the provider to observe interaction, environment, and dietary programs. Parents should consider other factors, as well. For a list of interview questions, more information about Brooks providers, or to become a provider, contact Jeanie Smith, Family Child Care coordinator at 536-2041, or stop by Bldg. 1154.

Today is Provider Appreciation Day. The Family Child Program acknowledges the following licensed/affiliated providers: Zita Bain, Jackie Heggedahl, Deborah Kiser, Masami Lewis, Diana Ortiz, Yolanda Richburg, and Angela Thomas.

Health & Fitness Center

Bldg. 940, 536-2188

May 16 is the date to remember. Squadron Sports Day kicks off at 8 a.m. with a 5K run. Other scheduled events include golf, racquetball, volleyball, tennis, 3-on-3 basketball, 1-pitch softball, 4-on4 flag football, horseshoes, 100-meter dash, 4 x 100 relay, ping pong, pool and a tug-of-war. Check with squadron sports representatives for more information or to sign up. An awards presentation is scheduled for 4:30 p.m. at the Brooks Club. Everyone is encouraged to stay for Prime & Wine Night and listen to the sounds of jazz and R& B with the Second Nature Band. Make your dinner selection from Prime & Wine, Shrimp & Wine, Chicken & Wine or Stuffed Catfish & Wine for \$12.95.

A world-wide 5K Fun Run is scheduled for May 21 at 11 a.m. Participants must be 18 years of age or older and sign up with the Fitness Center staff. Competitors will receive T-shirts.

Swimming Pool

Bldg. 710, 536-3744

The swimming pool is scheduled to open May 24. Hours of operation will be: Monday-Friday from 11 a.m. -1 p.m. for adult lap swim, and 1-7 p.m. for open swim. The pools will be open from 1-6 p.m. on weekends and holidays. Season passes are \$15 each with a maximum of \$75 per family. Purchase your pool passes from the Fitness Center or the pool once it opens. The daily user fee is \$2 and there will be a \$4 replacement fee for lost cards. Pool parties can be scheduled through the head lifeguard and are \$30 per hour. Contact the Youth Center staff at 536-2515 for information on swim lessons.

Base Library

Bldg. 705, 536-2634

The library is now open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday, closed Friday, Saturday and holidays, and open Sundays from 1:30 to 6 p.m.

The library hosts a salad buffet May 22 at 11 a.m. Call the staff for more information.

Salute to military families

Kraft Foods is saluting the military family this summer. This year's program includes free ticket vouchers for military families to attend the San Antonio Missions baseball game May 12 and a \$1 discount on Armed Forces Day, May 17, a youth essay contest and a new event, the Honorary Bat Boy Program. Ticket vouchers for the May12 game will be distributed by Services. The May 12 game features a special patriotic theme. The Air Force Band of the West presents a pre-game con-

cert at 6:20 p.m. and a special post-game fireworks display honors the military. The Salute to Military Families also includes a Youth Essay Contest where three \$1,000 U.S. Savings Bonds will be awarded, one for each major military installation in San Antonio. A new program for military youth, the Honorary Bat Boy Program, will select Honorary Bat Boys by random drawings from registration boxes located at selected military locations. Brooks will have boxes at the Youth Center, Bldg. 470, the Base Library and the Health and Fitness Center.

Honorary Bat Boys receive a Missions Cap and shirt, four reserved-seat tickets, and participate on field for the opening ceremonies at home games on Friday, Saturday, or Sunday. The contest is open to youth 18 and younger who are authorized commissary and Moral, Welfare, Recreation program access. Registration ends June 6.

The essay contest is based on a 1,000 word or less essay, written on "The Person I Admire."

The essay contest is open to military children 18 or younger that are eligible to use Services/MWR facilities at participating bases. Contestant's essays should include name, age, telephone number, and the base they are associated with. Essays must be posted marked by Aug. 1 and mailed to:

San Antonio Missions Baseball Club
Post Cereal Youth Essay Contest
5757 Highway 90 W
San Antonio, Texas 78277

The Salute to Military Families was arranged to thank military families for their patronage of base commissaries.



Swider



Such a nice girl



Photo by Airman First Class Samantha Shieh

By Rita Boland
Staff Writer

FULL NAME:
Airman 1st Class Grace D. Swider

DUTY TITLE, ORGANIZATION:
311th Communications Squadron

WHAT IS MY JOB?:
Telephone systems

BIRTHDAY:
Aug. 8, 1982

HOMETOWN:
Belfair, Washington

FAMILY STATUS:
I have a wonderful husband and 3 beautiful dogs.

MOTTO:
You only live once so do as much as you can now.

INSPIRATIONS:
My inspiration is my mother. She is a strong independent and wonderful person.

HOBBIES:
I like to play with my dogs, play volleyball and spend time with my family and friends.

I JOINED THE MILITARY BECAUSE:
My dad was in the Navy for 20 years and I knew when I was little that going into the military was best for me. I felt that it was the right thing to do .

FIVE-YEAR GOAL:
In 5 years I plan on being in school studying for my master's while still being in the Air Force and maybe starting my family.

ULTIMATE GOAL:
My ultimate goal is to retire in California with my degree, and be involved with a video production company.

IF I WON THE LOTTERY I'D:
move to California and go to school to get my bachelor's degree.

MY FAVORITE MUSIC:
I listen to pretty much everything.

MY GREATEST ACCOMPLISHMENT:
is joining the Air Force.

Airman 1st Class Grace Swider is, well, nice. In fact, she's accommodating, friendly, outgoing, personable and cheerful.

"I just love being around people," Swider said. "I'll go out of my way to make people happy."

She made two people very happy when she decided to join the military - her mom and dad.

"My parents support everything that I do," Swider said. "To see the look on my mom's face when I told her I signed the contract and was going to MEPS in two weeks, that made my day. It made my year."

Swider didn't originally intend to join the Air Force. She accompanied her father, a 20-year Navy veteran, to the Navy recruiter's office to discuss what the Navy had to offer. However, before she even began the conversation with the recruiter, she had some reservations about joining that branch of the military.

"The thought of being out at sea for six months at a time just didn't appeal to me," Swider said.

Military life did appeal to her, though, and she spoke with the Air Force recruiter who shared an office with the Navy. Both Swider and her father knew the Air Force would be the best fit.

"Everything the Air Force recruiter said made sense to me," Swider said. "(Dad) was proud of me for making the decision that I made."

Despite her conviction to join the world's finest military, Swider had some doubts along the way. Fortunately, her faith in her choice found constant renewal.

"I was in basic during September 11," she explained. "That hit me. I was like, 'Wow. I might die for my country.' I'm ready. That's why I put my uniform on every morning." While she never regretted her

decision to enlist, Swider eliminated any trepidation she felt when she arrived at Brooks.

"Once I got here I realized I was a lifer," Swider said.

Swider doesn't immediately resemble someone who would choose to make a career out of the military. In a service where equipment and uniform are geared toward middle-of-the-road body types (no one too big or too small), Swider sometimes has trouble finding uniforms to fit her petite frame. Yet, her centered equilibrium, deft movements and certainty of motion lend to a military bearing.

"I like getting up in the morning and putting a uniform on," Swider said.

Her husband also puts a uniform on every morning. He works at Lackland Air Force Base as a public health official.

Swider has friends at all the Air Force bases in San Antonio that she made through her technical school, which she split between Lackland AFB and Sheppard AFB, Texas, and her husband. As befits her extrovert personality, she forms bonds with people wherever she goes.

"In basic training my nickname was Squirrely Spoerle," Swider explained. "I saw my TI at Lackland and he yelled 'Squirrely Sporle. Come here.'"

While her job in the 311th Communications Squadron keeps her busy, and away from drill instructors, her husband's position brings her back in contact with those makers of airmen because he reviews all the health records for the basic trainees. She described his job as stressful and makes her appreciate her position even more.

"I like being in Comm and I like what I do," Swider said.

Although communications wasn't exactly her first choice, the Air Force told her she could select between that and being a cop, so her decision wasn't hard.

"Comm or cop," Swider said, using her hand to imitate a scale weighing the options. "Hmmm."

Brooks wasn't her first choice either. In fact, when she first learned of her assignment, she almost began to cry. However, like all generally cheerful people, Swider overcame her dismay and set to finding the bright spot and meeting new people.

"I didn't want to stay in Texas," Swider said. "Now I call it home...I've gotten to know some really good people."

She further integrated herself by joining the base volleyball team.

Swider traveled to Ohio in April to compete in a tournament with her team. Not breaking character, Swider grinned as she explained her enjoyment of the whole experience.

"I had a great time while we were up there," she said.

When she first joined the military, Swider, like many who choose to enlist, hoped to travel the world and receive a permanent duty station overseas.

"I thought I'd be in Europe or something. Maybe Japan," she said.

When Swider leaves the Air Force, she and her husband hope to move to California to pursue their life long dreams of being a video producer and owning a restaurant, respectively.

"I get great dinners at home," Swider said, explaining that her husband worked as a chef in a restaurant before entering the Air Force.

Swider has dreamed of making videos since she produced her high school's television news program. She's working on her associate's degree and plans to pursue bachelor's and master's degrees in video production.

Until she fulfills her dream, and probably after, she'll continue enjoying life, making friends and spreading happiness.

Rita.Boland@brooks.af.mil



National Nurses Week

“Nurses Lifting Spirits and Touching Lives”

May 6-12, 2003

All across the U.S. registered nurses are being saluted. The work of America’s 2.7 million registered nurses to save lives and to maintain the health of millions of individuals is the focus of this year’s National Nurses Week. This year the American Nurses Association recognizes nurses by drawing special attention to the nursing shortage.

* There are nearly 2.7 million registered nurses in the U.S. and 2.2 million of them are actively employed.

* As of November 2001, the Bureau of Labor Statistics projected more than 1 million new nurses will be needed by 2010. The report projects total employment will increase by 22.2 million jobs during the 2000-2010 period. Health-care practitioners and technical occupations are expected to account for 1.6 million new jobs during that period. Registered nurses, which represent the largest occupation in this group, should account for more than a third of those new jobs.

* There are more than 196,000 advanced practice nurses in the U.S.

Take a moment to honor these unsung heroes.





Fiesta 2003

Photos by Tech. Sgt. Anita Schroeder and
Staff Sgt. Alfonso Ramirez Jr.



Col. Tom Travis, 311th Human Systems Wing commander, left, Vice Commander Col. Stuart Cowles, right, and Command Chief Master Sgt. Richard Hollins, present a floral tribute in front of the Alamo April 21. Each year since 1925 the Alamo Chapter of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas has staged its annual Pilgrimage to the Alamo, a memorial tribute to the Alamo heroes and the heritage of Texas.



The 311th Human Systems Wing commander, Col. Tom Travis, his wife Sally, and Vice Commander Col. Stuart Cowles and his wife Joyce, celebrate Fiesta with other local military dignitaries and distinguished guests during opening ceremonies April 19.

Viva!



Brooks 2003 Fiesta medal



A table of dry toppings served at the Brooks Fiesta reception, an ice cream social this year, included choices such as Viva Fiesta Oreos and Mariachi M&M's.



Col. Tom Travis, 311th Human Systems Wing commander, center, and his wife Sally, receive guests and exchange medals at the Brooks Fiesta reception at Hangar 9. This year's reception was an ice cream social.



People who made a difference

*Photos by Tech. Sgt. Anita Schroeder and
Staff Sgt. Alfonso Ramirez Jr.*



The U.S. Air Force Honor Guard Presidential Drill Team performed for guests of the Brooks Fiesta reception at Hangar 9. The team performs with fully operational M-1 rifles with fixed bayonets, weighing more than 15 pounds.



Brooks 2003 Fiesta Ambassadors, Capt. Britt Barkley and 2nd Lt. Brooke Davis pose for a photo on the Brooks river barge before the Texas Cavaliers River Parade. Brooks' river parade entry was a silent tribute to the Space Shuttle Columbia astronauts who died Feb. 1.

Viva!



The San Antonio Pipes and Drums opened the Brooks Fiesta reception with its wonderful sounds.

Fiesta
2003



The U.S. Army's 82nd Airborne All-American Chorus performed at numerous Fiesta events.



Brooks celebrates Earth Day

By Rita Boland
Staff Writer

Brooks personnel celebrated Earth Day 2003 with a variety of activities and service projects.

Dr. Jim Wilde, an archaeologist at the Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence, observed the holiday the same way he has for several years, putting up bird houses around Brooks to provide a shelter and nesting place for Purple Martins.

“(Brooks) is a really good place,” Wilde said. “It’s a good environment for Martins.”

Since Brooks doesn’t have a flight line, the birds don’t pose a hazard to flying missions.

Wilde put up one birdhouse for Earth Day, officially held on April 22, this year, though the home actually went up in late February/early March because Purple Martins migrate and lay eggs during that period. The birds originally nested in nooks and crannies of most any natural formation, but those birds east of the Rocky Mountains now nest almost exclusively in man-made structures.

“They’re pretty much dependent on humans now,” Wilde said.

Brooks has 23 birdhouses for Purple Martins, all of which need monitoring to keep English Sparrows and European Starlings from taking them over. The bird buildings, most of which look like bird condominiums, sit on tall poles around the base.

The new house purchased and raised by Wilde has a special half-moon entrance that the competing birds can’t enter. Though no birds settled in the newest house this year, Wilde knows when the birds migrate next year they’ll inhabit the structure.

“We put it up a little too late,” he said. “(When they learn to fly) youngsters will look for houses for next year.”



Yellow Crowned Night Heron

Wilde also closed in half the openings of another house so each compartment had two rooms instead of one. The change allows the Purple Martins to lay their eggs in a more secure area. People can lower the newer houses by using a crank or chain, but the older houses are stationary on the poles. For this reason, many of the older houses fall in to disrepair. AFCEE and AFCEE personnel donate money for new houses and improvements.

According to Wilde, many people place Purple Martin birdhouses in their yards to watch the fliers on their annual migrations.


“A lot of people really like them,” Wilde said.

Other organizations around base also participated in Earth Day activities. The 60th Information Operations Squadron collected newspapers and magazines for recycling. According to Tech Sgt. Tracy Sullivan the organization amassed 125 pounds of recyclable paper products by April 23.

Bioenvironmental engineers on base spent Earth Day at the Youth Center teaching children about the planet and what it means to be part of an ecosystem. Various organizations around base participated in building and landscaping projects in honor of the holiday. Rhonda Hilla, a Brooks contractor, designed the Earth Week posters seen around base and also coordinated various activities.

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Education notes



By Carolyn Croft-Foster

Brooks Education Services Office
536-3617

CCAF Spring Graduation

The Brooks community is invited to attend the Community College of the Air Force Spring graduation ceremony and reception May 9 at 2:30 p.m. in the main auditorium of Bldg. 775. Fifty-six degrees will be conferred. Graduates will be in service dress. Uniform of the day is appropriate for military and appropriate civilian attire is recommended for civilians and family members. The reception immediately follows the ceremony in the USAFSAM Atrium.

McHale selected for PA board

Congratulations to Staff Sgt. William McHale for his selection by the 2003 Physician Assistant Board for a commission in the Biomedical Sciences Corps. McHale will attend the Physician Assistant School at Fort Sam Houston and be commissioned as a 2nd lieutenant in the Air Force. Congratulations.

Maymester On-Base

Registration is underway for Maymester On-Base. This is a three-week semester for one class. The semester begins May 12 and ends June 1. On-Base classes include: Computer Literacy, American Government, Humanities, Introduction to Psychology and Speech. Call the Education Center for more information or to schedule an appointment with the Palo Alto representative.

Evening testing available

Beginning in May, military members can take CLEP and DSST exams Wednesday evenings at the Brooks Education Services Office. Seating is limited. Call 536-3617 to reserve a seat.

Six CLEP exams retired

The College Board is retiring six CLEP subject paper-based tests in June. The exams are: General Humanities, General Biology, General Chemistry, German, and Western Civilization I and II. Anyone wishing to take one of these exams must take it prior to June 30. The following exams will be retired Nov. 30: General English, General Mathematics, Accounting, American History I and II, and Spanish. Call the Education Center for more information or to reserve a seat.

Virtual education center

The Virtual Education Center is on-line. Servicemembers can view information about Air Force Education Centers and the Community College of the Air Force. CCAF students can also order CCAF transcripts from the site. To access the AFVEC go to the following Web site and establish an account at: <https://afvec.langley.af.mil>. Call the Brooks Education Center at 536-3617 for details.

Discover on-line

The Discover Program is a career exploration program for individuals searching for a new career. This program can be used by military, civilians, and family members. For more information, please call 536-3617 to schedule an appointment to review the website and get started.

Blood donations needed to support operations

Wilford Hall Medical Center
Office of Public Affairs

With combat operations in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, the Air Force’s largest blood donor center, located at Lackland Air Force Base, is appealing to all active duty military, military dependents, retirees, civil service and Department of Defense contractors to donate now.

More than half of the blood currently being sent overseas by the Air Force is collected at Lackland’s Blood Donor Center. With construction completed last fall, the new Air Force Blood Donor Center is located one block south of the Emergency Room entrance to Wilford Hall Medical Center in Bldg. 3425. Blood drives are also being conducted regularly at Randolph AFB and Brooks. The next blood drive is scheduled at the Brooks Chapel May 20 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Call 292-8145 for detailed information and to schedule your donation at Lackland.

Although Type O Negative blood is desperately needed by the air Force but all donations are appreciated.

People who are not affiliated with the DoD are encouraged to support their community by donating at local community blood donor centers.

According to the South Texas Blood and Tissue Center, every three seconds someone needs blood, however, less than 5 percent of the eligible donor population gives blood.

Anyone 17 years or older, who weighs at least 110 pounds, and is in good general health may donate. Prospective donors must first complete a health history questionnaire and go through a screening process. If all the requirements are met, a unit of blood is drawn from the donor. Some health conditions or medications may temporarily or permanently prevent persons from donating blood.

Give the gift of life.

Air Force Community Assessment Survey important to future

Air Force service members and their spouses at Air Force bases worldwide have been randomly selected to participate in the Air Force Community Assessment study. Participation is crucial to the success of the project; those selected are strongly urged to take part.

“The 2003 Community Assessment Survey is a top priority,” stated Col. John Bowley, 311th Mission Support Squadron Commander.

“It is the best way for us to listen to service members and then provide services to help them meet their needs and their families’. It allows them to express their opinions anonymously so participants can respond openly and honestly to issues that affect them every day.”

Survey responses can directly influence family services and related support activities at local bases and throughout the Air Force. In fact, results from previous Air Force Community Assessments have impacted the policies and programs that support families at every level of the Air Force, to include:

- Set up marriage support seminars for junior enlisted members and their spouses
 - Increase commander understanding of challenges faced by spouses when members deploy
 - Provide a “family day” allowing members to spend more time with their families
 - Obtain Internet Service Provider service within Family Support Center to help families communicate with deployed members
 - Provide free health and wellness “check-ups” to all AF community members
 - Increase enjoyable free or low-cost activities for single members
- “The 2003 Community Assessment Survey provides service members and spouses a wonderful opportunity to improve the Air Force Community,” said Bowley. We hope those selected will do everything they can to respond to the survey as quickly as possible.”
- If you have any questions regarding the 2003 Community Assessment, please contact the Integrated Delivery System chairman Capt Derek Kren at 536-5301.



Sports

Brooks volleyball rookies made veterans by AFMC tourney

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

They took their lumps as rookie volleyball players in stride while showing much more experienced opponents that their tenacity and composure under fire is as important to the game as winning.

While the Brooks varsity women's team did not win any games during the Air Force Materiel Command volleyball tournament at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, April 18-26, they did manage to mature into a group of veteran players who earned the respect and admiration of their adversaries.

"We had a lot of compliments from coaches and organizers about how we stuck together. Our morale was always kept at a maximum," said Jose Murillo, Brooks varsity women's coach.

Murillo, who has coached the Brooks women's team the past four years, knew the odds were against his squad before the tournament began. Five of the Brooks team's seven players were truly rookies, for most of them had never before played competitive volleyball.

Most of the original veteran players who Murillo recruited in February were lost to deployments. Replacement players had only a few weeks to prepare for the command tourney. This preparation consisted of a few practices and just one scrimmage game with a local city league team.

"Basically, I ended up with a team that had no experience except for two

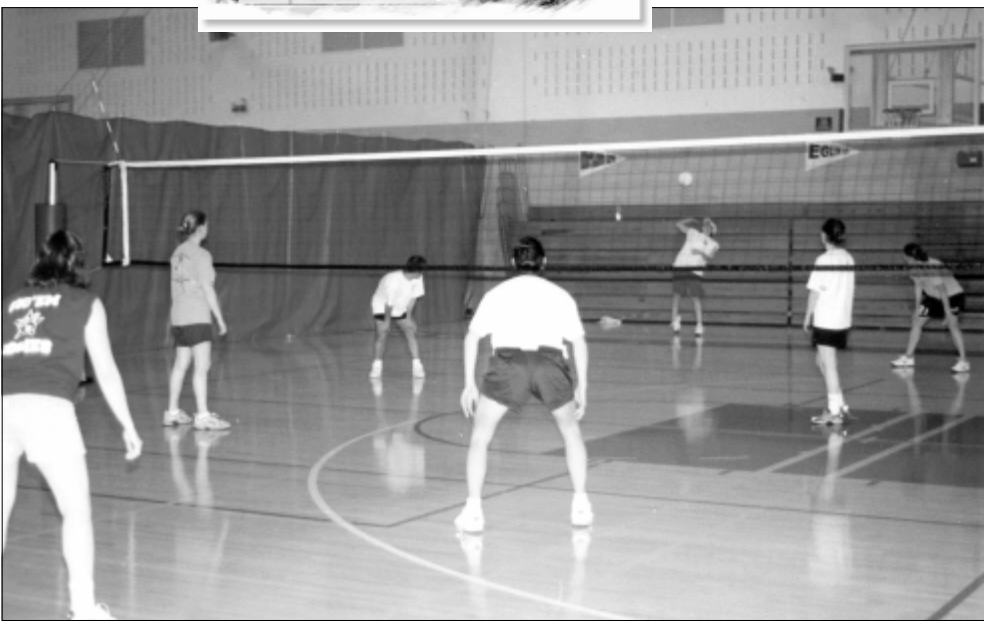


Photo by Rudy Purificato

The Brooks varsity women's team relied mostly on a few practice sessions at the fitness center to prepare for the Air Force Materiel Command tournament at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. Most of the original team was lost to deployments, leaving replacement players only a few weeks to train for the tournament.

returning players from last year's squad. As soon as I saw the players from other teams (at the tourney), I knew we were at a big disadvantage. We were overwhelmed by the experience of the other teams," admits Murillo.

Unlike Brooks' perennial problem of a diminishing talent pool caused, in part, by deployments and military manpower reductions, other but larger AFMC bases appeared to have successfully weathered similar obstacles. In doing so, the AFMC base teams have fielded highly competitive volleyball squads that collectively possess an important element missing, historically, from Murillo's squads — continuity.

"The teams that compete at the AFMC tournament basically have the same players from past years," Murillo confessed.

Conveying this to his team, the Brooks coach encouraged his players by telling them "to do their best."]

He also advised them that they would improve as the tournament progressed.

"Our very last game against Edwards AFB was our best. They beat us 25-23 (in the final game of the match), but our morale was still high," said Murillo.

While the Brooks squad went 0-12 in the double round robin tourney, they managed to frustrate many of their opponents with tenacious play.

Against Wright-Patterson AFB, runners-up to tournament champion Hill AFB, Brooks players' inspired performance forced their opponents to work for every point.

"We had a great bond. It was a great experience for me as a coach, and overall, a great experience for all of us. I couldn't have been more proud of

them," Murillo said.

His praise is not limited to his team's tourney performance, but also to how his players prepared to meet the challenge.

"They put in an amazing effort to learn how to play the game. I didn't teach them any complicated rotations. I taught them basic skills," said Murillo, explaining that they worked hard to master fundamentals.

Newcomers who contributed to the team's impressive competitiveness include the 311th Communications Squadron's Grace Swider and Amy Bailik, backrow specialist and outside hitter, respectively; setter Stephanie Ramirez with the 311th Security Forces Squadron; backrow specialist Kenya Santos with the U.S. Army Research Detachment; and rightside hitter Danielle Weston with the 311th Mission Support Group.

The big question for Murillo now is will any of his newly established "veteran" players return next year.

"Every year I have a different team. It's tough starting over every year," admits Murillo.

In past years, he has had three or four veteran players to work with, although most of them were newcomers to the team. This year, only two returning veterans made the trip to the command tourney: backrow specialist Crystal Ray from the 311th Communications Squadron and outside hitter Meleana Kauo with the 311th Medical Squadron.

"We should do better next year if our experienced players return," Murillo predicts.

Should that happen, the Brooks coach might enjoy success similar to what his 2001 squad achieved as AFMC tourney runners-up.

Rudolph.Purificato@brooks.af.mil

WNBA visits Brooks to promote Silver Stars

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

The Women's National Basketball Association's San Antonio Silver Stars plans to honor part of its new fan base with a "Military Appreciation Night" during its historic home opener May 24 against the Seattle Storm at the SBC Center.

Katherine Kaliski, Silver Stars sales representative, will be selling tickets to the home opener at the Brooks Fitness Center from 8-10 a.m. during Squadron Sports Day May 16.

She was initially here April 30 selling home opener and season tickets.

"We (already) have sold more than 6,000 season tickets. The \$75, \$50 and \$29 courtside season tickets are sold out," Kaliski said, noting that remaining tickets for the Silver Stars' inaugural season include those priced from \$19 to \$7.

There are also package ticket deals and group rates, she said, explaining that each discounted package includes an official Silver Stars T-shirt.

The new WNBA franchise is scheduled to play a 36-game season in a 14-team league. Of the 18 home games, the Silver Stars play all but four beginning at 7:30 p.m.

An All-Star game is scheduled in July in Detroit. The regular season ends in August, followed by the playoffs.

Brooks members who won a special Silver Stars promotional drawing April 30 include Rob Collins, grand prize winner of an official WNBA basketball, and Georgia Royster and Kimberly Parks who received Silver Stars T-shirts.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Anita Schroeder

Katherine Kaliski, San Antonio Silver Stars sales representative, sells tickets to a Brooks member to the WNBA franchise's inaugural home opener at the SBC Center later this month. Kaliski will be selling tickets at the Fitness Center during squadron Sports Day at Brooks May 16.

Silver Stars 2003 home schedule

Sat., May 24 vs. Seattle	7:30 p.m.
Fri., May 30 vs. Minnesota	7:30 p.m.
Sun., June 1 vs. Connecticut	2:30 p.m.
Thu., June 5 vs. Phoenix	7:30 p.m.
Sat., June 7 vs. Detroit	7:30 p.m.
Sat. June 14 vs. Charlotte	7:30 p.m.
Fri., June 20 vs. Houston	7:30 p.m.
Thu. June 26 vs. Los Angeles	12 p.m.
Sat. July 1 vs. Washington	7:30 p.m.
Sat. July 5 vs. Phoenix	7:30 p.m.
Thu., July 17 vs. Sacramento	7:30 p.m.
Sat., July 19 vs. Washington	7:30 p.m.
Sun., July 27 vs. Cleveland	6 p.m.
Fri., Aug. 1 vs. Houston	7:30 p.m.
Thu., Aug. 7 vs. Sacramento	7 p.m.
Sat., Aug. 9 vs. Los Angeles	7:30 p.m.
Sat., Aug. 16 vs. Minnesota	7:30 p.m.
Wed., Aug. 20 vs. Seattle	7:30 p.m.

Air Force loses rugby title to Army at 'Brooks Field'

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

The West Point Cadets used a penalty kick to unseat the defending champion Air Force Academy team as winners of the Alamo City Fiesta Rugby Battle at Brooks Field Park April 26.

The Falcons, 2002 winners of the USAA Commandant's Trophy, previously beat the U.S. Naval Academy to advance to the championship round staged near Brooks.

According to Air Force Academy spokesman John Van Winkle, this inter-academy rugby rivalry began in 1987 in San Antonio when the Alamo City Rugby and Football Club invited the military service academies' junior varsity rugby teams to participate in the tournament during San Antonio's annual Fiesta celebration.

"In 1994, the varsity teams began to participate," said Van Winkle, explaining that since then the tournament has been an official Fiesta event.

U.S. Rep. Ciro Rodriguez helped kick off the tournament by conducting the official coin toss to determine who got the ball first in the first match-up between the Air Force and Navy.

"Our Air Force team has won the trophy four out of the last seven years," Van Winkle said, noting that the Air Force Academy women's varsity rugby team is the current national champions.

Rugby combines elements of both soccer and football. It originated in 1823 in England at a school for boys called Rugby School. The sport was invented by a boy who picked up a soccer ball during a match and ran with it. Since then, rugby has been played using an oval ball.



Photo by Senior Airman Brandy Bogart

U.S. Representative Ciro Rodriguez tosses the coin to determine who gets the ball first during the Alamo City Fiesta Rugby Battle at Brooks Field Park. The Air Force Academy lost the rugby title to the West Point Cadets during the game.

NEWS briefs

Blood drive

The next base-wide blood drive is scheduled for 9 a.m.-3 p.m., May 20, at the Brooks Chapel. The Air Force is in dire need of O Negative blood, but all donations are appreciated.

Orthodontic patients needed

The Tri-Service Orthodontic Residency Program at Dunn Dental Clinic at Lackland Air Force Base is seeking 10-18 year-old patients for treatment by the incoming class of residents. Patients need to be eligible active duty family member beneficiaries who are not on the Tricare Dental Plan, United Concordia, or who have already met their lifetime orthodontic benefit cap. Beneficiaries and family members of retired personnel in the local area are eligible for consideration, and are especially encouraged to come in. Contact 292-2579 for an evaluation appointment or more information.

Commercial travel guides

Deployments necessitated by ongoing operations have forced military personnel and their family members to alter personal travel arrangements. Recently, commercial carriers announced they may waive fees associated with reservation changes or provide refunds of ticket costs. To qualify, the service member will have to provide a hard copy of a document which verifies the change to personal travel plans are being made in response to military requirements.

A DefenseLink article discusses the policies followed by major airlines and AMTRAK in these situations. The article is available at: <http://dod.mil/mapcentral/airtickets.html>. A link within the article details the airlines' new policies on luggage weight allowances and fees. Each of the armed services' aid societies are also linked to assist qualifying members requiring emergency financial aid.

Sleep study subjects

The Chronobiology and Sleep Laboratory at Brooks needs volunteers to participate in a number of ongoing sleep research studies. Interested Air Force and civilian personnel who meet the necessary qualifications are eligible to receive compensation starting at \$10 per hour. Contact Laura Sanchez at 536-3616 for additional information, or visit the website at: www.ntiinc.com and link to "studies."

Tuskegee airmen banquet

The San Antonio Chapter, Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. holds its 12th Annual Educational Awards Banquet May 10 at 6 p.m. at the Randolph Air Force Base Officers Club. In addition to presenting educational assistance awards, this year's event features Tuskegee Class 45-G graduate Dr. Granville Coggs as the guest speaker.

Tickets are \$25. For more information or tickets, contact Rick Sinkfield at 536-4188.

Altitude test subjects

Altitude test subjects needed: Help provide F-22 pilots, high altitude parachute personnel, high altitude reconnaissance pilots and astronauts with adequate equipment and procedures to accomplish their missions without distraction or hazard resulting from exposure to altitude. Several research protocols are being conducted at the High Altitude Protection Laboratory at Brooks to accomplish this mission. Hypobaric (altitude) chamber test subjects can earn \$150 per month for participating in at least one session per month. Each subject must meet Air Force body fat or height/weight standards, be a non-smoker for at least two years, be between 18 and 50 years of age, and be able to pass an appropriate physical exam. Contact Heather Alexander at 536-3440 or Jim Carlile at 536-3546 for more information.